

**Early Childhood Development and Health Board - Nominees
Meeting Minutes
January 22nd, 2007**

A regular meeting of the Early Childhood Development and Health Board (Nominees) convened on January 22nd, 2007, at 4:30 p.m., at The Camelback Golf Club, 7847 N. Mockingbird Lane, Scottsdale Arizona, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice having been duly given. Present and absent were the following members of the Early Childhood Development and Health Board (Nominees):

Members present:

Nadine Basha
Rhian Evans Allvin
Pamela Powell
Gary Pasquinelli
Paul J. Luna
Eugene W. Thompson
Cecil B. Patterson

Ex-Officio Members

Present:

Tracy L. Wareing
Karen Woodhouse
(Designee) for
Superintendent Horne

Members absent:

Jack Jewett
Vivian Juan-Saunders
Susan Gerard
Anthony Rodgers

Guests:

Patty Briggs
Naomi Karp
Cheryl Foster
Mary Lamm
LaVonne Douville
Gerry Cobb
Janita Gordon
Erin Daga
Leslie Andrews
Bruce Liggett
Connie Shorr
Josh Allen
Nancy Oyen
Susan Segal
Jennifer Pollock

Staff:

Irene Jacobs
Karen Ortiz
Alicia Smith
Donna Migliore
Jennifer Johnson
Judy Walruff
Melody Fowler
Gail Spry

I. Welcome

Irene Jacobs, Executive Director of the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families and Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Napolitano, acting as Interim Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and welcomed the nominees and guests.

II. Introductions

The purpose of this evening's meeting is to introduce the nominees to the public and review the agenda for the next meeting, scheduled for tomorrow, January 23rd, at 8:00 a.m. On the agenda for tomorrow's meeting:

Steve Lynn will be discussing the School Readiness Board Transition plan and timeline.

Rhian Evans Allvin will give a history of Proposition 203.

Gerry Cobb of Smart Start will provide information on the Technical Assistance offered by Smart Start.

Dora Vasquez will be available to answer any technical administrative questions for the new board.

Irene Jacobs thanked each nominee for their dedication and time to serve on the board. Irene then asked nominees to introduce themselves and provide a brief background, as well as express their “one hope” for this board. After each nominee had been introduced, the guests in attendance also gave brief introductions.

Irene then thanked the School Readiness Board Staff for all of their efforts and support.

III. Karen Ponder, President of Smart Start, North Carolina

Questions and answers regarding the implementation of a comprehensive, high quality, early care and education system in North Carolina.

Karen Ponder offered several observations before taking questions:

- 1) There will be a strong need for branding
- 2) Some confusion regarding statewide funding and governance
- 3) Need to listen to local communities when deciding where the regional partnerships should be.
- 4) There needs to be a good communication system between the board, communities and state agencies.

Overall she was very excited about the energy from the community.

Q. (Gene Thompson) Asked about the data collection methods and validity.

A. (Karen Ponder) Data collection was a grueling process, performed primarily by the Frank Porter Graham Center, and 33 other studies of work by the University System. Found that some of the data was not usable.

Q. (Pamela Powell) What does data show regarding early intervention for disabilities?

A. (Karen Ponder) Used community performance standards to identify children earlier who have special needs. These were done in inclusionary settings.

Q. (Karen Woodhouse) When did North Carolina feel that everything was clicking into place?

A. (Karen Ponder) Once every county had been funded and it was brought in by local communities, it finally felt like it had “stuck”.

Q. (Gary Pasquinelli) Important to get a state level organization to provide technical support, was this a new agency created?

A. (Karen Ponder) A new agency was created by the North Carolina Legislature by Governor Hunt.

Q. (Paul Luna) Are there unique challenges for the Early Childhood Development and Health Board (ECDHB) being viewed as a Government Agency?

A. (Karen Ponder) Yes, people may not want to give the government more money to support the work. Try to run as a business and the partnerships are your customers. Need to determine who in the state will support the local partnerships and hold advocacy meetings across the state.

Q. (Irene Jacobs) Can you talk about the development of regions?

A. (Karen Ponder) Regional partnerships work best when the ideas come from them. Listen to what makes sense for them locally.

Q. (Rhian Evans Allvin) Initiative language allows the board a liberal amount of time to develop regional partnerships, and we have 2 years of collecting funds before it has to be distributed. What should initial funds be used for?

A. (Karen Ponder) Unallocated initial funding should be used to bring the regional partnerships together for training (required) to see what systems are in place and identify resources available. Professional development teacher scholarships also.

Karen Ponder also mentioned that it was very important to work with the Superintendent of Public Education, and come to a mutual definition of the meaning of "school readiness". A good idea to make recommendations to all public schools as to what makes a "ready school".

Q. (Gene Thompson) Was a 5-Star Quality Rating System deliberately not put into place from the beginning?

A. (Karen Ponder) Yes. This was a strategic decision to incentivize programs to be better. There is a need to build the incentives in before you make the changes.

Irene thanked Karen Ponder for sharing the experiences and lessons learned from the implementation of Smart Start in North Carolina.

Irene also introduced Nancy Oyen from the Attorney General's Office, who was in attendance to provide legal guidance to this newly formed Board.

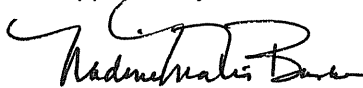
IV. Call to the Public

No questions from the public were submitted for discussion.

V. Adjourn

After reminding everyone of the upcoming meeting tomorrow, and the location, meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Approved by the Board February 26, 2007:



Nadine Mathis Basha, Chairman